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I realize that the information that I have gathered together is not a valid sample that anyone else could really use. But I have gotten very much out of my experiences in Amba. It was the first time I was out of the country and the first time I was able to get to know something more than surface information about a land and its people. And since it was of such a small island I got an overall insight of life on the island. I was very scared at the beginning but that quickly changed once I was reassured of how nice people are basically and especially of how willing they are to help you. What gave me a warm feeling was the fact that so many Ambians were anxious to know we enjoyed Amba, saw everything and that we would never forget it. They don't know how much I really benefited from Amba - psychologically and physically. I just relaxed, was able to take things so easily.

and sure so freely unnumbered and unhurried.

I think that the experience of interviewing people has made the meaning of what it is to really learn. What the people have taught me about themselves and their land is a part of me now. I really don't have to go back to my notes to look up what I found out - I know it. It's great to realize that I did not have to cram any readings into my head - I just talked and observed and took in so much so easily. ✓

Also, I know I learned a lot from living so informally with the other students and faculty. Look at all the different characters you can study and, most of all, to become more aware of so many different outlooks and opinions on life. I think this program was especially rewarding for me for I know some twenty people well enough to stop

and really talk to. It's especially nice since Hunter tends to have a very rushed, massive and impersonal air to it.

The number and types of informants and the amount of information I obtained limits the <sup>just the scope</sup> validity of my paper. I know it was very easy to get information from the general teachers I spoke to but I realize that ideally I should have observed children especially in their home, play and school situation to find out what I wanted to know. I can relate a general idea of the differences in the masculine and feminine roles on the island. The main focus of my questions was on the work, the freedom and the restrictions placed on boys and girls.

even talking to just one person is perfectly valid for what it is.

The main references I will be referring to are a pretty 40 year old patine woman, a fifteen year old maid who had nine brothers & sisters, [these two only spoke Papiamentu], and several teachers - Mr & Mrs Bennett both born in Antigua - he teaches fourth grade in an all girls school, she teaches part time; Mr Twahammed a teacher of the fourth grade in an all boys school, originally from Surinam here for three years and involved in a summer camp for disadvantaged boys on the island; and, Mr Bruce a sixth grade teacher in San Nicolas, originally from Saint Martin and also to his wife and his brother-in-law, a teacher Felix Bardouille and finally an Antillean school teacher Mr Spratt <sup>how young?</sup>.

When the children are young there are not much differences in their treatment by parents.

The idea of pink for girls and blue for boys is followed in some cases but you must remember all the baby clothes are imported, so they take

this could only be true for wealthy people -

✓ importing of culture -

the styles already set. One interesting fact about <sup>how old? where did it come from?</sup> small children was the old custom about cutting children's hair, especially the boys too early. The old women told us that if you do the child will learn slower, some strength will be plowed down as walking or talking. She described her own little boy when she was telling us how he died as having two long braids when he was about one year old.

This is fascinating - a kind of Samson theme. Many people have this kind of belief about hair & clipping.

It is about seven or eight years old that

the children begin to have tasks to do. Girls are taught mainly household chores as sweeping, washing, ironing and keeping the house clean. It is funny to find out now as I go over my notes that just one told me that cooking was included in the chores for girls. Boys have chores around the house mostly garden work, clearing the yard, going on messages, shopping, nailing things or painting things when needed. And it is about ten or eleven years of age when the boys are given greater freedom, they are let do pretty much as they

This is all ideal or normative about, the way things should be. But did all your respondents agree perfectly?

want and get away with few chores. The fifteen  
year old maid told us that when boys are little they  
play around the house, but when they're about eleven  
or twelve years old they go away from the house. Her

✓ good  
✓ you  
✓ pinned  
✓ down  
✓ to a  
source

parents say nothing about the boys not helping. She  
told them she thought they should do some chores but  
her mother said nothing and her father never does  
anything. Meanwhile, the girls are given more and  
more responsibility, they are expected to do more.

is this  
disagreement  
with her  
parents? Is she  
occasionally  
helping  
or do all  
older  
sisters feel  
this way?

Philomena gives all her money to her mother who does  
not especially put it aside and save it for her. She  
said some of her brothers work and they give some of  
their money to her mother. She felt that her mother  
hit and scolded the girls more than the boys. The

not all?

older women said children have to listen. If they don't  
they will get smacked by her - she said her girls  
listened to her they did not do much wrong. Several  
people mentioned the fact that children know it's

who?

their duty to take care of their parents in their old age.

This old woman said her children take care of her, they know it's their duty and she said the girls help her more than the boys. I think the greater responsibility placed on and expected of girls influences their adult role in life.

Mothers are the usual disciplinarians in the household but in certain things the father will have the last say. Fathers are a marginal figure, you do not talk of a grandfather family but always of a grandmother family. If a girl in the family

becomes pregnant the family will be ashamed but on the other hand, ~~likewise~~ if a boy <sup>(son)</sup> gets another girl pregnant it does not matter that much to the family.

Women are brought up in a more responsibility oriented atmosphere and they accept this.

The old woman even now that her children are married if her daughter-in-law should complain to her she goes to her son and tells him what he's



doing wrong and he listens to her. Shafelt mothers have to tell their children what is wrong or right even though they grow up and get married. She believed boys should love their mother more than a wife for you can get fifty wives but you will only have one mother. Women here take their role seriously and seem to really be the makers of a family.

what does it mean? Being a man is everything to the boys. The mothers are very proud of their sons and more or less let the boys come and go when they want because they want them to become a man and not be tied down.

So boys at about fourteen begin to smoke, then after awhile start drinking rum then they slowly get into the habit typical of older men. <sup>who? the boys?</sup> They try to protect teenage girls by warning them against boys - especially sexually while boys are let do pretty much what they want with no disapproval. The Muhammed in speaking about the boys at summer camp said this is the first time for many of them at making

How do you know whether it is a boy?

their bed, washing the dishes and their clothes and keeping  
the tent neat. One boy said "why, I never do this at  
home my mother or sister do it, why should I do it here?"  
what happened - did he do it?

Two teachers said about eight or ten <sup>boys</sup> of their  
classes do not know their father. And others see the  
father pole as the wage earner, someone who comes home at  
night and leaves the next morning, someone who talks to you  
occasionally and maybe someone who goes out and gets  
drunk on the weekend. Also Mr. Mohammed found  
out from asking his boys that they do not see any  
difference between the father and husband pole.

this is  
a very  
interesting  
point!

In some cases the mother is not married so they do not  
see a father, and in other cases they never see father kiss  
the mother in front of the children. If they see this <sup>affection</sup> on  
television the boys laugh.

As a result of this lack of father image the  
boys picture the mother as a very important figure.  
The worst thing one boy could do to another is use  
bad words against his mother - there will always

Sounds  
like the  
classic  
family of  
the West  
Indies  
described  
in the  
Wynham  
report. I'd  
say that  
this is true  
& say Nicolaas  
than of the  
funnier.

be a fight. If a father should go to jail, it's all right <sup>for the boys</sup> he is a man, he can get drunk and into a fight easily. But, if it should ever happen that for some reason their mother got into prison this would be the worst thing that could happen to the boys.

I think that the girls are brought up from when they are young to be the stable figure of the family. In this way the boys and men are allowed for freedom and greater chance to build up their masculine pride or vanity. The women accept their role and in a way probably like their men to act independently and "become a man" they can be proud of.

Doesn't this leave the man in a very shaky position in his own household, though? If the woman manages everything, where does the man fit in?

Isn't smoking and drinking a rather brittle definition of masculinity for adolescent boys to have?